

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group consists of one positive single lens alone,

said third lens group comprises three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens, or two lenses, a positive lens and a negative lens,

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein, and

a negative lens is located nearest to an object side of the second lens group that satisfies at least the following condition (7):

$v_{21} < 40$

... (7),

wherein v_{21} is an Abbe's number of said negative lens.

42. (Twice Amended) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said zoom lens system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group comprises two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens,

said third lens group consists of three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens, and

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein.

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(Twice Amended) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said zoom lens system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group comprises two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens, or one positive lens alone,

said third lens group comprises three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens, or two lenses, a positive lens and a negative lens,

said fourth lens group consists of one positive single lens alone,

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein, and

a negative lens is located nearest to an object side of the second lens group and satisfies at least the following condition (7):

$$v_{21} < 40$$

$$\dots (7),$$

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wherein v_{21} is an Abbe's number of said negative lens.

45. (Twice Amended) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said zoom lens system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

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a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group comprises two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens, or one positive lens alone,

said second lens group consists of a negative single lens, a negative single lens, and a positive single lens,

said third lens group comprises three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens, or two lenses, a positive lens and a negative lens,

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein, and

a negative lens is located nearest to an object side of the second lens group that satisfies at least the following condition (7):

$$v_{21} < 40 \qquad \dots (7),$$

wherein v_{21} is an Abbe's number of said negative lens.

46. (Twice Amended) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said zoom lens system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group comprises two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens, or one positive lens alone,

said third lens group comprises a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens,

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein, and

a negative lens is located nearest to an object side of the second lens group that satisfies at least the following condition (7):

$$v_{21} < 40 \quad \dots (7),$$

wherein v_{21} is an Abbe's number of said negative lens.

47. (Twice Amended) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said zoom lens system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group comprises two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens, or one positive lens alone,

said third lens group comprises a positive single lens convex on an object side thereof and a doublet consisting of a positive lens convex on an object side thereof and a negative lens concave on an image side thereof,

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein, and

a negative lens is located nearest to an object side of the second lens group

that satisfies at least the following condition (7):

$v_{21} < 40$

... (7),

wherein v_{21} is an Abbe's number of said negative lens.

49. (Twice Amended) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said zoom lens system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group comprises two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens, or one positive lens alone,

said fourth lens group has a surface with a stronger curvature on an object side thereof than on an image side thereof,

said third lens group comprises three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens, or two lenses, a positive lens and a negative lens,

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein, and

a negative lens is located nearest to an object side of the second lens group that satisfies at least the following condition (7):

$$v_{21} < 40 \qquad \dots (7),$$

wherein v_{21} is an Abbe's number of said negative lens.

50. (Amended) A zoom lens system according to any one of claims 1 or 43, wherein the first lens group remains fixed during zooming.

51. (Amended) A zoom lens system according to any one of claims 1 or 43, wherein the third lens group moves during zooming.

52. (Amended) A zoom lens system according to any one of claims 1 or 43, wherein the third lens group moves toward the object side of the system from the wide-angle end to the telephoto end.

53. (Twice Amended) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said zoom lens system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

E6 a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group comprises two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens, or one positive lens alone,

said third lens group comprises three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens, or two lenses, a positive lens and a negative lens,

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein,

a negative lens is located nearest to an object side of the second lens group that satisfies at least the following condition (7):

$$v_{21} < 40 \qquad \dots (7),$$

wherein v_{21} is an Abbe's number of said negative lens, and

a condition $0.5 < |F_2 / F_3| < 1.2$ is satisfied, where F_i is a focal length of an i -th lens group.

54. (Twice Amended) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said zoom lens system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group comprises two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens, or one positive lens alone,

said third lens group comprises three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens, or two lenses, a positive lens and a negative lens,

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein,

a negative lens is located nearest to an object side of the second lens group that satisfies at least the following condition (7):

$$v_{21} < 40 \quad \dots (7),$$

wherein v_{21} is an Abbe's number of said negative lens, and

a condition $0.49 < |L_3 / L_2| < 1$ is satisfied, where L_i is an amount of movement of an i -th lens group from the wide-angle end to the telephoto end.

55. (Twice Amended) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said zoom lens system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and
a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group comprises two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens, or one positive lens alone,

said third lens group comprises three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens, or two lenses, a positive lens and a negative lens,

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein,

a negative lens is located nearest to an object side of the second lens group that satisfies at least the following condition (7):

$$v_{21} < 40 \quad \dots (7),$$

wherein v_{21} is an Abbe's number of said negative lens, and

a condition $2 < (F_{3,4w}) / IH < 3.3$ is satisfied, where $F_{3,4w}$ is a composite focal length of said third and fourth lens groups at the wide-angle end, and IH is a radius of an image circle.

56. (Twice Amended) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group having negative refracting power;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group having positive refracting power,

wherein:

during zooming, a space between said first and second lens groups, a space between said second and third lens groups and a space between said third and fourth lens groups vary independently,

said third lens group consists of, in order from an object side thereof, a double-convex positive lens, and a doublet consisting of a positive meniscus lens convex on an object side thereof and a negative meniscus lens, and said fourth lens group consists of a double-convex lens having a large curvature on an object side surface thereof, and

a negative lens is located nearest to the object side of the second lens group and a condition $v_{21} < 40$ is satisfied, wherein v_{21} is an Abbe's number of said negative lens.

57. (Amended) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said system:

- a first lens group having positive refracting power;
- a second lens group having negative refracting power;
- a third lens group having positive refracting power; and
- a fourth lens group having positive refracting power,

wherein during zooming, a space between said first and second lens groups, a space between said second and third lens groups and a space between said third and fourth lens groups vary independently,

wherein said third lens group consists of, in order from an object side thereof, a double-convex positive lens, and a doublet consisting of a positive meniscus lens convex on an object side thereof and a negative meniscus lens, and

said fourth lens group consists of a positive lens having a large curvature on an object side surface thereof, and

wherein the first lens group consists of two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens, and the second lens group comprises, in order from an object side thereof, a negative lens, a negative lens and a positive lens.

58. (Amended) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group having negative refracting power;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group having positive refracting power,

wherein during zooming, a space between said first and second lens groups, a space between said second and third lens groups and a space between said third and fourth lens groups vary independently,

wherein said third lens group consists of, in order from an object side thereof, a double-convex positive lens, and a doublet consisting of a positive meniscus lens convex on an object side thereof and a negative meniscus lens, wherein said first lens group consists of two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens, and said fourth lens group consists of a positive lens having a large curvature on an object side surface thereof, and

wherein the second lens group is positioned on the image side at a telephoto end of the zoom lens system rather than at a wide-angle end of the zoom lens

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system, and the third lens group is positioned on the object side at the telephoto end of the zoom lens system rather than at the wide-angle end of the zoom lens system.

60. (Amended) A zoom lens system comprising, in order from an object side thereof,

a positive first lens group consisting of two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens;

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a negative second lens group comprising, in order from an object side thereof, a negative lens convex on an object side thereof, a negative lens concave on an image side thereof and a positive lens convex on an object side thereof;

a positive third lens group comprising, in order from an object side thereof, a positive single lens convex on an object side thereof and a doublet consisting of a positive lens convex on an object side thereof and a negative lens concave on an image side thereof, with any of surfaces therein being defined by an aspheric surface, and

a fourth lens group comprising one positive single lens convex on an object side thereof,

wherein at least the second, third and fourth lens groups move for zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said zoom lens system, the second lens group moves toward the image side at the telephoto end rather than at the wide-angle end, and the third lens group moves toward the object side at the telephoto end rather than at the wide-angle end.

62. (Amended) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming; and

E 9 a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group consists of two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens, or one positive lens alone,

said third lens group consists of three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens and a bi-concave negative lens, or two lenses, a positive lens and a bi-concave negative lens, and

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein.

E 10 64. (Amended) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group consists of two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens, or one positive lens alone,

said second lens group comprises at least two single lenses,

said third lens group consists of three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens, or two lenses, a positive lens and a negative lens,

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein, and

the following condition (4) is satisfied:

$$0.6 < |F2 / F3| < 1 \quad (4)$$

where F_i is a focal length of an i -th lens group.

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65. (Amended) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group consists of two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens, or one positive lens alone,

said second lens group comprises at least three lens components,

said third lens group consists of three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens, or two lenses, a positive lens and a negative lens,

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein, and the following condition (4) is satisfied:

$$0.6 < |F2 / F3| < 1 \quad (4)$$

where F_i is a focal length of an i -th lens group.

66. (Amended) A zoom lens system comprising in order from an object side of said system:

a first lens group having positive refracting power;

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a second lens group that has negative refracting power and moves from an object side to an image plane side of said system during zooming from a wide-angle end to a telephoto end of said system;

a third lens group having positive refracting power; and

a fourth lens group that has positive refracting power and is movable during zooming, wherein:

said first lens group consists of two lenses, a negative lens and a positive lens,

said third lens group comprises three lenses, a positive lens, a positive lens and a negative lens, or two lenses, a positive lens and a negative lens, and said third lens group consists of two lens components,

said third lens group has at least one aspherical surface therein, and

the following condition (4) is satisfied:

$$0.6 < |F2 / F3| < 1 \quad (4)$$

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where F_i is a focal length of an i -th lens group.

Please add new claims 70-72 as follows:

70. (New) A zoom lens system according to any one of claims 57, 58, 60 and 66, wherein the first lens group includes an air separation interposed between the negative lens and the positive lens thereof.

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71. (New) A zoom lens system according to any one of claims 1, 42, 43, 45, 46, 47, 56, 57, 58 and 59, wherein the third lens group moves constantly from the image plane side to the object side during zooming from the wide-angle end to the telephoto end.

72. (New) A zoom lens system according to any one of claims 1, 42, 43, 45, 46, 47, 56, 57, 58 and 59, wherein the second lens group moves constantly from the object side to the image plane side during zooming from the wide-angle end to the telephoto end.
